

A month ago, I was having a conversation with my husband about the dangers of media consolidation. I told him that soon, one group or corporation will betray the public trust and use the public air-ways to create and distort American policy. They will use their power for their own agenda and profit. He told me I was being paranoid. He has since apologized.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license

renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.